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THE CONFLICT OF LAWS RELATING TO BILLS AND NOTES. By Ernest G. Lorenzen, Professor of Law in Yale University. New Haven, Yale University Press; London, Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press; 1919; pp. 337.

An anonymous pamphlet of the year 1645 warns against the election of lawyers to the House of Commons because, among other objections, "The knowledge of the Common Law, doth no way conduce to the making of a States-man: It is a confined and topical kind of Learning, calculated only for the Meridian of Westminster Hall, and reacheth no further then Dover. Transplant a Common Lawyer to Calice, and his head is no more useful there then a Sun-Dyall in a grave." Mr. Lorenzen's head, however, contains knowledge of use in Calice and in every other part of the civilized world, if one may judge from this book—although he does not mention the law of China. He has taken as his text the Uniform Law relating to bills and notes, approved by the representatives of more than a score of nations at the Hague Conference in 1912. This, in its particulars, he compares with the law, on the same topic, of the various countries of the world, especially that phase of it relating to the conflict of laws. This does not necessitate statement of all the law of any country regarding negotiable instruments, and the author has not attempted to offer to the international financier, or his lawyer, a compendium of foreign law upon the subject. He assumes, moreover, a considerable technical knowledge on the part of his readers, and his style, while direct and concise, is somewhat elliptic, so that those parts of the book which are not merely expository are rather tough reading. With this realization, that the book is for the student rather than for the casual practitioner, it is of a value quite commensurate with all of Mr. Lorenzen's writings.

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